REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 23, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. New Claims 10-12 have been added. Claims 1-12 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van de Mortel et al. (hereinafter "Van de Mortel") in view of Ruther et al. (hereinafter "Ruther") and further in view of Saegusa et al. (hereinafter "Saegusa"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully assert that none of the cited references teach or suggest "means for initializing the handset via the wired interface, *when the handset is physically docked in the docking station, by reading from the handset* a unique handset security code based on a unique handset serial number permanently stored in the handset", as recited in Claims 1 and 9.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the cited references teach or suggest "initializing a handset via the wired interface, *when the handset is physically docked in the docking station, by reading from the handset* a unique handset security code based on a unique handset serial number permanently stored in the handset", as recited in Claim 8.

The Examiner has relied upon Ruther as disclosing the preceding limitations of Claims 1, 8, and 9. However, Ruther discloses a synchronization operation (RDY SYNC; M1^M2) wherein information is *wirelessly* transmitted between the mobile station and the base station and not via a wired interface when the handset is docked in the base unit as claimed in Claims 1, 8, 9. The use of the wired interface when the handset is docked in the base unit is advantageous over the approach disclosed by Ruther for many reasons. For example, wireless transmissions of security codes and the like as performed by Ruther are susceptible to interception and subsequent unauthorized use by an unscrupulous party. Moreover, wireless transmissions as performed by Ruther are more prone to errors in the exchange of data as compared to the wired data communications essentially recited in Claims 1, 8, and 9.

Applicants respectfully assert that the remaining references, namely Van de Mortel and Saegusa, do not cure the deficiencies of Ruther. For example, as noted above, the remaining references also do not teach at least the above limitations of Claims 1, 8, and 9. Thus, none of the references, either taken singly or in combination, disclose all of the limitations of Claims 1, 8, and 9. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 8, and 9 are allowable over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 2-7 depend from Claim 1 or a claim which itself is dependent from Claim 1 and, thus, contain all the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 2-7 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

As noted above, new Claims 10-12 have been added. Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 10-12 are each patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited references for at least the reasons respectively set forth above with respect to Claims 1, 8, and 9, as well as in their own right. For example, none of the cited references teach or suggest the following limitations recited in Claims 10 and 12:

wherein the base unit and the handset each comprise means for scrambling digital communications between the base transceiver and the handset in accordance with a scrambler seed unique to the handset that must be known to both the base transceiver and the handset, the base unit and the handset each comprise a memory device for storing the scrambler seed, the handset comprises the means for receiving the scrambler seed from a user of the handset when the handset is being initialized for storage in the memory device of the handset, and said means for initializing comprises means for reading the scrambler seed provided by the user of the handset from the memory device of the handset for storage in the memory device of the base unit.

Moreover, none of the cited references teach or suggest the following limitations recited in Claim 11:

wherein the base unit and the handset each comprise a memory device and means for scrambling digital communications between the base transceiver and the handset in accordance with a scrambler seed unique to the handset that must be known to both the base transceiver and the handset, and the method further comprises the steps of:

receiving, by the handset, the scrambler seed from a user of the handset when the handset is being initialized; and
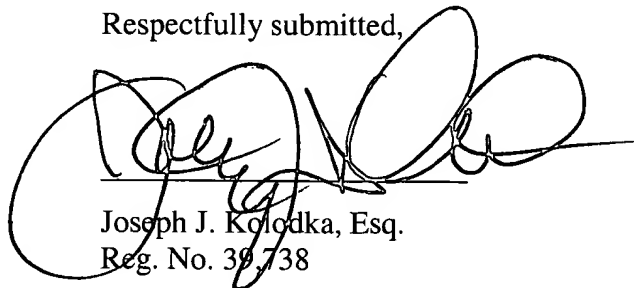
storing the scrambler seed in the memory device of the handset, wherein said initializing step comprises the step of reading the scrambler seed provided by the user of the handset from the handset, and the method further comprises the step of storing the scrambler seed in the memory device of the base unit.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims set forth in the Office Action of April 23, 2003 be withdrawn, that pending claims 1-12 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's Deposit Account No. 07-0832

Respectfully submitted,

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